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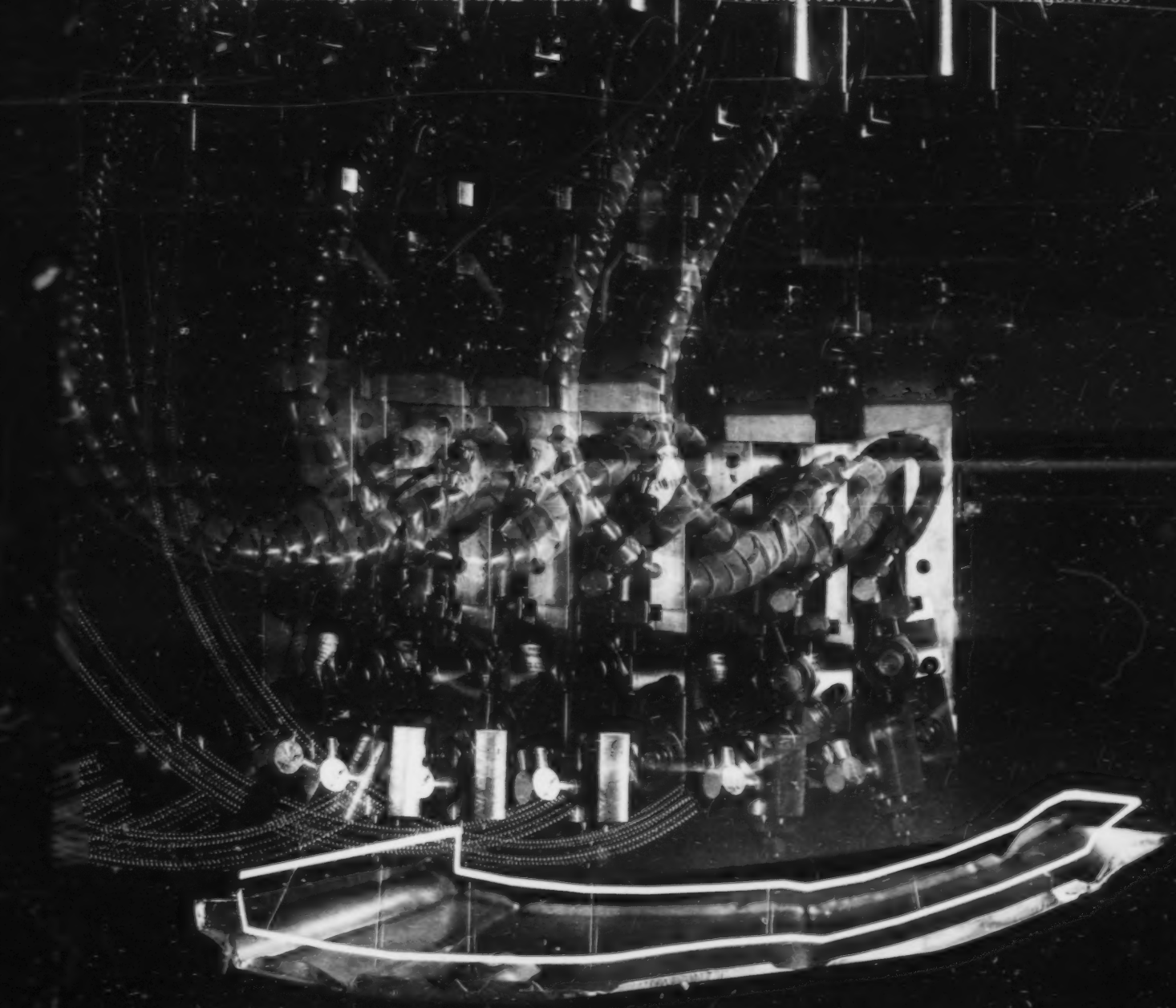
# Rubber World

The technical service magazine for the rubber industry Volume 192, No. 5 August 1985



## Automated dispensing of adhesives and sealants

Vulcanization, network structure and properties

Fumed silica in RTV-1 silicone sealants

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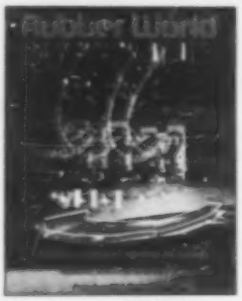


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## Cover

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# Business Briefs

## Acquisitions, expansions

The **Stepan Co.**, Northfield, IL acquired the polyurethane and polyol business of **Reichhold Chemical** for an undisclosed sum. Sale includes design, technology, customer lists and inventories of raw materials and finished goods, but does not include plant and equipment.

**Witco Chemical** expects to complete its $2 million-plus modernization and expansion at the Newark, NJ plant operated by its Humko Chemical division by the end of the third quarter. The expansion will increase capacity for making fatty chemicals by 40%.

**Parker Hannifin** has agreed to acquire **Schrader Bellows** for approximately $77.5 million in cash. Schrader Bellows manufactures pneumatic automation products.

**ICI Americas** will acquire the principal lines of business and related assets of **Pigment Dispersions Inc.**, Edison, NJ a manufacturer of specialty dispersion for urethanes and thermoset materials and liquid colorants for thermoplastics.

**Union Carbide** is constructing a facility to produce polyketone polymers at its Marietta, OH plant. Commercial introduction of these new high temperature engineering thermoplastics, under the Kadel tradename, is planned for next year.

**Essex Chemical** acquired **Polymer Technology Corp.**, Sausalito, CA, a custom formulator of casting systems used to encapsulate light emitting diodes and other optoelectronic devices.

**Goodyear** has opened a powder coatings laboratory at its Akron, OH facility to explore new powder coating resins and provide high technology service to coating makers.

**NL Industries** agreed to acquire the **Spencer Kellogg** division of Textron, Inc., a supplier of specialty resins to the coatings, ink, electrical and adhesives industries with headquarters in Buffalo, NY and six manufacturing facilities.

**Compo Industries** and **Ausimont**, the specialty chemicals subsidiary of Montedison plan to merge. The new company will be headquartered in Waltham, MA.

**Amspec Chemical** signed a letter of intent to produce and market antimony oxide with the Chinese government. A state-of-the-art antimony plant will be built in Yiyang, Hunan which will have an annual production capability of 3,000 to 5,000 metric tons of various grades of antimony oxide. The products manufactured at the Hunan plant will be marketed worldwide by Amspec.

**Badische Corp.**, Williamsburg, VA has agreed to acquire the fiber business of **American Enka Corp.**, Enka, NC with manufacturing plants in Enka, Lowland, TN and Clemson, SC.

**J.J. Short Associates, Inc.** opened its new 12,500 sq. ft. office and manufacturing facility in Macedon, NY. Short produces custom rubber products.

**Bemis Co.**, Minneapolis, MN acquired the assets of **Master Conveyor Corp.**, Englewood, CO a manufacturer of automated palletizing, conveying and stretch wrapping systems.

Bemis also acquired the "Raptite" product line for the **Aktron Corp.**, Pompton Plains, NJ. Raptite is a pass-through type pallet stretch wrapping machine.

**Thomas C. Blair** has opened an industrial microscopy lab to serve the rubber and plastics industries in Garretsville, OH.

**Mitsui Petrochemical Industries Ltd.**, Tokyo, Japan has become the 46th member of the International Institute of Synthetic Rubber Producers.

**Plasma Coatings, Inc.**, Waterbury, CT has completed an expansion which increases their coating capacity by 33%.

**Bridgestone Tire Company of America** is expanding its headquarters in Torrance, CA, adding on 17,095 sq. ft. The $1.5 million expansion is scheduled to be completed in November. Bridgestone also broke ground for a tire warehouse/distribution center in Addison, IL. The 260,000 sq. ft., $9 million facility incorporates 6,300 sq. ft. of engineering office and training space as well.

**Newport Corp.** completed its 78,000 sq. ft. manufacturing plant in Fountain Valley, CA dedicated to production of the company's line of vibration control products.

**Witco Chemical** established a southwest regional office that consolidates its area sales offices and corporate de-

**RMA rubber report through April 1985 (figures in metric tons)**

| | Cumulative 1985 | Cumulative 1984 | % Change 85 vs 84 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **New Rubber** | | | |
| New rubber available | 1,056,465 | 1,102,281 | −3.25 |
| Imports | 387,515 | 378,123 | 2.48 |
| Exports | 120,863 | 118,282 | 2.18 |
| Apparent Consumption | 920,536 | 965,741 | −4.68 |
| **Natural Rubber** | | | |
| Imports | 300,065 | 294,946 | 1.74 |
| Exports | 13,432 | 7,250 | 85.27 |
| Apparent Consumption | 281,043 | 281,816 | − .27 |
| % Total new rubber | 30.53 | 29.18 | |
| **Synthetic Rubber** | | | |
| Production | 676,950 | 724,156 | −6.24 |
| Imports | 87,450 | 83,177 | 5.14 |
| Exports | 107,431 | 111,032 | −3.24 |
| Apparent Consumption | 639,493 | 683,925 | −6.50 |
| % Total new rubber | 69.46 | 70.81 | |
| **SBR** | | | |
| Production | 300,975 | 338,690 | −11.14 |
| Imports | 28,350 | 25,163 | 12.67 |
| Exports | 29,287 | 33,524 | −12.64 |
| Apparent Consumption | 293,566 | 318,673 | −7.88 |
| **Nitrile** | | | |
| Production | 21,543 | 21,621 | − .36 |
| Imports | 4,649 | 3,902 | 19.14 |
| Exports | 2,474 | 2,443 | 1.27 |
| Apparent Consumption | 21,499 | 23,765 | −9.54 |
| **Polybutadiene** | | | |
| Production | 119,921 | 119,109 | .68 |
| Imports | 22,420 | 24,470 | −8.38 |
| Exports | 7,923 | 8,203 | −3.41 |
| Apparent Consumption | 136,656 | 135,892 | .56 |
| **Ethylene-Propylene** | | | |
| Production | 78,167 | 74,487 | 4.94 |
| Imports | 329 | 251 | 31.08 |
| Exports | 10,087 | 11,254 | −10.37 |
| Apparent Consumption | 64,410 | 59,206 | 8.79 |
| **Butyl, Polychloroprene, Polyisoprene, Silicone and other Synthetic Elastomers** | | | |
| Production | 158,345 | 170,251 | −6.99 |
| Imports | 31,702 | 29,391 | 7.86 |
| Exports | 57,660 | 55,608 | 3.69 |
| Apparent Consumption | 123,361 | 146,389 | −15.73 |

# Business Briefs

partments and relocates its Pearsall Chemical division headquarters at a single site, its headquarters for its Concarb division in Houston.

**Abtrex Industries**, Inkster, MI has set up an Indiana division, located in South Bend, formed by the acquisition of Blast Kote, Inc. together with the merging of American Fiberglass Fabricators and a Pennsylvania division in Leetsdale which was formerly Industrial Elastomers, Inc.

## Contracts, licenses

**American Synthetic Rubber** has been appointed exclusive U.S. distributor for Calprene polymers manufactured by **Calatrava Empressa Para La Industria Petroquimica, S.A.**, Madrid, Spain. The products include butadiene-styrene thermoplastic rubbers in addition to block type copolymers.

**Baychem International**, Houston, TX has entered into an agreement with **El Paso Products**, Odessa, TX to develop and produce atactic polyalpholefins. Production is targeted for early 1986 with an initial production capacity of 25 mm pounds per year. Baychem will have full responsibility for post modification and marketing of these products while El Paso will have manufacturing responsibility.

**Arco Chemical** will market in the U.S. the **Fratelli-Lamberti S.p.A.** Albizzate, Italy, line of photoinitiators for use in radiation cure inks, coatings and adhesives.

**Akzo Chemie America**, Chicago, IL and **Avebe America**, Hopelawn, NJ have formed a joint venture to produce and market gluconates in North America. The partners have acquired a currently idle gluconate plant and facilities in Janesville, WI with initial production scheduled for early fall.

The Plastic Service Centers of **Borg-Warner Chemicals** have been appointed as nationwide distributors of **Mobay Chemical's** line of Texin thermoplastic urethane elastomer resins. Bay State Polymer Distribution Inc. will continue to distribute Texin thermoplastic urethane elastomer resins. Bay State Polymer Distribution Inc. will continue to distribute Texin products in the Great Lakes region.

**Lutz Industrial Reps**, Lenexa, KS has been selected as manufacturers representatives by **Hydralign** for its web guiding systems and web handling accessories.

## Financial statements

**Cooper Tire & Rubber** announced second quarter sales of $130.2 million with earnings of $4.4 million.

**Eagle-Picher Industries** reported second quarter sales of $174.6 million and net income of $7.3 million.

**GenCorp** reported net income for the second quarter of $35.3 million on sales of $763 million.

**BFGoodrich** announced a net loss for the second quarter of $352.2 million. Sales were $849.4 million.

**Brad Ragan Inc.** had revenues of $191.4 million and net income of $787,000 for the fiscal year ended April 30, 1985.

**Rubbermaid** reported second quarter net income of $11.9 million on sales of $148 million.

**Carbon black industry in the USA (metric tons)**

| | | 1st Qtr. 1985 | Percentage change from 4th Qtr. '84 | Percentage change from 1st Qtr. '84 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| N-100 (SAF) | Prod. | 6,450 | + 2.7% | + 6.8% |
| | Ship. | 6,447 | + 7.3% | + 1.3% |
| N-200 (ISAF) | Prod. | 34,982 | + 0.4% | ( 1.3%) |
| | Ship. | 34,089 | ( 2.3%) | ( 6.9%) |
| N-300 (HAF) | Prod. | 129,573 | (10.5%) | ( 9.0%) |
| | Ship. | 130,099 | ( 8.2%) | ( 5.6%) |
| N-500 (FEF) | Prod. | 25,531 | ( 4.2%) | (10.3%) |
| | Ship. | 26,318 | + 4.4% | ( 7.7%) |
| N-600 (GPF) | Prod. | 81,215 | ( 5.1%) | + 0.7% |
| | Ship. | 81,166 | ( 2.6%) | ( 0.5%) |
| N-700 (SRF) | Prod. | 29,833 | ( 1.0%) | ( 0.2%) |
| | Ship. | 30,319 | + 6.8% | ( 4.5%) |
| Total | Prod. | 307,584 | ( 6.3%) | ( 4.7%) |
| | Ship. | 308,438 | ( 3.5%) | ( 4.4%) |
| Domestic Shipments (Included Above) | | 302,473 | ( 1.8%) | ( 4.6%) |
| Domestic Share | | 98.1% | | |

## Markets, news

First quarter furnace black production in the U.S. decreased 5% and shipments 4% from the same 1984 period to 308 thousand metric tons each, according to a Columbian Chemicals report. Demand in all grades was lower except N-100, up 1%. Dry rubber hydrocarbon consumption decreased 4% to 668 thousand metric tons. Demand for natural rubber climbed to a quarterly high, surpassing the previous record of 211 mmt in the first quarter of 1977 by 1%, but SBR was down to the lowest level since the 185 mmt in the fourth quarter of 1982. As the synthetic share of 67.9% was the lowest level in 35 years, carbon black ratio eased from 45.4 phr the year earlier to 45.3 parts per hundred rubber.

In a business restructuring program, **BFGoodrich** announced its plans to divest its chemical plant at Convent, LA which manufactures chlorine, caustic soda and ethylene dichioride; cease making PVC resin at its Long Beach, CA facility; restructure the tire operation that would lower the assets by one-fourth used in the tire business; and divest its Continental Conveyor & Equipment subsidiary. Restructuring in the tire business includes the closing of its Exeter, PA plant that produces nylon tire fabric used primarily in truck, off-road and farm tires. BFG also announced it was relocating the production of its rubber tank linings from its Akron, OH plant to a new plant in Livonia, MI.

Overall consumption of specialty elastomers will grow 6-7% annually between now and 1988 according to a study by SRI International. Demand for copolyester-ethers, fluoroelastomers and other specific products will increase between 12-13%. The higher growth rate expected for some specialties will be fueled by their use in automotive hose, ignition wire, fuel system components, boots and mounts. Consumption of the specialty elastomers was about 170 million pounds in 1983. Manufacture of sealants and adhesives for the construction industry accounted for over 25% of the total, automobiles accounted for 20%.